

Message Text

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73-61
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /073 W
----- 121179

R 161512Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1063
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR UR US SZ AORG UNGA ECE
SUBJECT: SWISS DEMARCH ON TRANSFER OF UN OFFICES TO VIENNA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SWISS MINISTER CALLED NOVEMBER 16 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO TOUCH BASE WITH EMBASSY RE SWISS CONCERN OVER SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD TRANSFER OF UN OFFICES FROM NEW YORK AND GENEVA TO VIENNA, WHICH MAY COME UP IN UNGA SESSION. ACTING POL COUNS SAID WE WOULD QUERY DEPARTMENT ON U.S. ATTITUDE AND SOUND SOVIETS INFORMALLY ON THEIRS DURING NORMAL WORKING CONTACTS. ADVISE. END SUMMARY.

2. SWISS MINISTER RITTER CALLED ON ACTING POL COUNS NOVEMBER 16 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE QUESTION OF SWISS AND SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD TRANSFER OF UN OFFICES FROM NEW YORK AND GENEVA TO VIENNA. INSTRUCTION WAS TO SWISS DIPLOMATIC POSTS AROUND THE WORLD, AND CALLED ON SWISS MISSIONS (1) TO DEPLORE TRANSFER AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, (2) TO SOUND HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THEIR ATTITUDES, AND (3) TO TOUCH BASE WITH U.S. EMBASSY CONCERNING HOST GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES.

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EM AS BACKGROUND, RITTER REFERRED TO 3529 (XXX) RESOLUTION OF THE UNGA; NOTED PLANS TO TRANSFER 500 RPT 500 PEOPLE FROM NEW YORK AND GENEVA TO VIENNA OVER 5 YEARS; CLAIMED THAT AUSTRIA WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED, WITH DISCREET BACKING FROM WALDHEIM, IN TRANSFER OF ECE; AND SAID SWISS HAD ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY ON THIS MATTER WITH U.S. BECAUSE OF NEW YORK HQ ROLE. THE INSTRUCTIONS, HE SAID, NOTED THAT MATTER OF ECE TRANSFER COULD COME UP AT END OF CURRENT UNGA SESSION, POSSIBLY AT LDC INITIATIVE, AND THAT TRANSFER WAS LIKELY TO BE SUPPORTED BY ALL BLOC ECE MEMBERS EXCEPT ROMANIA AND POSSIBLY BY SWEDEN, AND TO BY OPPOSED BY FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE. MORE INFORMALLY, HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE WAS NOT OPEN TO DOUBT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY FAVOR TRANSFER IN HOPE THAT TRAINED WESTERN OFFICIALS WILL REFUSE TO MOVE, GIVING GREATER WEIGHT IN ECE TO SOVIET AND EE OFFICIALS WHO WILL, OF COURSE, AGREE TO MOVE. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT SWISS PERMANENT OBSERVER TO UN AND SWISS AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON HAD DISCUSSED MATTER IN DEPARTMENT IN AUGUST, AND HAD FELT U.S. AND SWISS POSITIONS WERE "VERY CLOSE", WITH THE U.S. AUTHORITIES SENSITIVE ABOVE ALL TO POLITICAL IMPACT ON U.S. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR UN.

4. ACTING POL COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD REPORT DEMARCHE, ENQUIRE AFTER U.S. ATTITUDE, AND SOUND SOVIETS DEALING WITH UN MATTERS INCOURSE OF NORMAL WORKING CONTACTS CONCERNING THEIR ATTITUDES. RITTER SAID HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SUCH SOUNDINGS, SINCE HE SAW FEW SOVIETS HIMSELF AND FORMAL CALLS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE LIABLE TO ELICIT MOST FORMAL RESPONSES POSSIBLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE, FOR OUR INFORMATION, AND AUTHORIZATION TO PROBE SOVIETS INFORMALLY TO HELP RITTER OUT IN CONDUCTING DEMARCHE, WHICH CALLS FOR HIM TO REPORT ON SOVIET ATTITUDES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW18003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760428-0049
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761142/aaaabklb.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWISS DEMARCH ON TRANSFER OF UN OFFICES TO VIENNA
TAGS: PFOR, AORG, UR, US, SZ, UNGA, ECE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006